

Chatham Township Environmental Commission
58 Meyersville Rd, Chatham, NJ 07928, 973-635-4600
Minutes of the Tuesday, January 8, 2013 CTEC Meeting

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:23 pm on Tuesday, January 9, 2013 at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members L. Caprioglio, S. Carroll, F. Esposito, Shankar Krishnan, Matthew Palmer, M. Schaaf (left 9:03), D. Stillinger, Township Liaison Kathy Abbott (arrived 7:37 - left 9:00) and township residents Mike Kelly, Marilyn Murray, and Joe Dunn from Morris County Soil Conservation District.

CTEC'S PURPOSE: To undertake projects and make recommendations concerning the protection or use of natural resources, including water resources and air quality, located within or directly affecting Chatham Township.

The Chatham Township Environmental Commission's goal is to provide a responsible environmental viewpoint to Township committees and boards and to undertake projects with a strong educational component in order to inform officials and residents about constructive actions that can be taken to preserve the environment.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT -- The meeting schedule for 2013 and January 2014 is posted on the main bulletin board at the Township municipal building and on the Chatham Township website at www.chathamtownship.org. The public is cordially invited to attend all meetings, join the discussions and participate in projects.

CTEC AND GREEN TEAM MEETING DATES FOR 2013 AND JANUARY 2014

Every first Tuesday February through December 2013 and the second Tuesday in January 2014.

February 5, March 5, April 2, May 7, June 4, July NO MEETING, August 6, September 3, October 1, November 5, December 3 in 2013 and January 14, 2014.

REORGANIZE

Chair and Vice-chair.

Matthew Palmer motion to nominate Dot Stillinger as Chairperson, 2nd by Frank Esposito, with all in favor. Dot Stillinger nominated Steve Carroll as Vice Chair. Frank Esposito motioned to appoint Steve Carroll as Vice-chair, 2nd by Lou Caprioglio, with all in favor.

APPROVE GREEN TEAM AND CTEC MINUTES OF DECEMBER 4, 2012

Frank Esposito motioned to approved the CTEC and Green Team minutes from December 4, 2012, and Lou Caprioglio 2nd, with all in favor.

Sustainable Jersey update – Sustainable Jersey website introduced new actions that municipalities can implement to become certified. S. Carroll, Green Team Chair and CTEC Vice Chair.

RECYCLING PICK UP DISCUSSION

Township resident Marilyn Murray, discussed recycling pick up. Mrs. Murray commented on this issue at a December meeting of the Township Committee. Gauging interest in increased recycling pick up frequency is important. The ideal is to reduce trash expenses as you increase recycling. Mrs. Murray suggested weekly recycling pickup. Currently pickup is twice a month. The increase for a weekly recycling pickup would be roughly 34.7% more expense. At times, because of the way a holiday falls, there is only one recycling pick up that month. Some commission members agreed, that with a weekly recycling pickup schedule, trash will decrease which would hopefully decrease future trash pickups. With an increase in recycling materials, the township would receive an increase in the yearly tonnage grant that it receives from the State. Mrs. Murray will draft a petition regarding a weekly recycling pickup. Once the petition is completed, she will present it to the township committee.

TREE PLANTING DISCUSSION

Joe Dunn, head of the Morris County Soil Conservation District, talked about a possible bulk tree sale in Chatham Township. A similar, very successful, tree sale was held in Long Hill in 2003. The discussion was on the potential of a sapling sale for the Chatham area with the focus on marketing. If the commission concurs this this type of sale, Mr. Dunn would hold a few instructional classes as to assure for the planting and care for a sapling. Commission

members agreed with Mr. Dunn that the township needs to recover from the storm before having a tree sale, i.e. fallen trees removed, stumps removed, and the ground restored. Because of bare roots, saplings should be planted in the spring.

The goal is to begin to replace some of the canopy losses from Sandy & use the opportunity to get the message out on the care, handling & benefits of trees.

Mr. Dunn was knowledgeable about applying for grants for habitat and trail improvement at the Green Village Pond Conservation Area.

Kathy Abbott would like to see the master gardens involved with the tree planting.

Lee Blair, Watershed Ambassador for 2013, has prepared a chart showing best native trees to plant in Chatham Township. The chart has been posted on the Township website.

APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW

NEW. 15 JOANNA WAY. Block 70, Lot 14. 12-21-12. Application to NJDEP for LOI. This lot appears to drain to Wynwood Road and has a drainage easement along the rear property line. There are wet areas throughout this region.

CLOSED. PSE&G. 10-12-12. Application to NJDEP for Individual Freshwater Wetlands Permit for wetlands disturbance for construction of the North Central Reliability Project. Work in the swamp has been exemplary - precisely 20 foot wide corridor with double silt fences and a very sturdy wood vehicle track over the wetlands. Also good up the slope away from the swamp. Erosion mostly prevented with hay bales and silt fences. Letter has been sent to NJDEP urging good vegetation management in power line rights-of-way and revegetation with native species.

PENDING. T MOBILE NORTHEAST LLC, Block: 62, lots: 52 & 54. 7-19-12. Application to Board of Adjustment for temporary wireless communication tower and associated equipment. Tower will be constructed on the upper field at Esternay Field. Planning Board had a courtesy review of the application on Monday December 17. Electrical power will be brought to the site from Fairmount Ave.

PENDING. Rolling Knolls Superfund site at the end of Britten Road. No new information. It was specifically excluded from the market garden ordinance.

REPORTS

Planning Board report. Development check list on 1/28 Planning Board meeting schedule. L. Caprioglio, Planning Board liaison.

Township Committee report. K. Abbott, Township Committee liaison.

Open Space Committee report. S. Krishnan and M. Schaaf, Open Space Committee liaisons.

Communications Committee report. F. Esposito

Recycling Committee report. Recycling Awards dinner rescheduled. Awards to be given for CTEC recycling video and Rocket Composter. F. Esposito, Chair.

Community Education and Outreach Committee report.

DISCUSSION/ACTIONS

- Safe Routes to School - update. Report submitted to Township Committee, application will be made for grants and Gold status with the SRTS organization. "This (Chatham school district) was the only school district in which every school participated in SRTS programs throughout the school year." K. Abbott.
- Complete Streets - update. K. Abbott.

- Annual Workday will be held on Saturday, April 20 at the Green Village Pond Conservation Area. Trail needs to be clipped and outlined with poles, more trash in the rear debris piles needs to be removed. We could use a nice sign at the entrance. Plan to connect the Conservation Area with the Loantaka Bike Trail via the Platt, now Morris County park, parcel. Possibility of a loop trail through the former Kirby, now Chatham Township, parcel. Open Space Committee is urging formal protection of the former Stoller parcel so the area will be eligible for grants. Volunteers wanted.
- Three changes of ownership of properties with conservation easements - Churchill to Matia at 602 Fairmount Avenue (CE held by Great Swamp Watershed Association), Dudley to Mazzilli at 130 Meyersville Road (CE held by Chatham Township and NJDEP), Dudley to Oh at 126 Meyersville Road (CE held by Chatham Township and NJDEP).
- NRI revision. The current draft can be viewed at <http://allcat.tzo.com>. S. Carroll, S. Krishnan, M. Palmer, D. Stillinger.
- PSE&G's proposed power line upgrade. About 2.5 miles are in Chatham Township. Of the 15 towns along the route Chatham Township has the second-longest run, after Livingston's 10 miles. Berkeley Heights has about 2 miles. Letter has been sent to NJDEP from CTEC urging good vegetation management in power line rights-of-way and revegetation with native species.
- Note alternatives being proposed for Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. The word on the street is that Option B is most favored. Read the Plan at <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/planning/Great%20Swamp/ccphome.html>.
- Identify a stormwater mitigation project to make use of funds in escrow account of East Park Builders, which is unable to meet its stormwater requirements on site on Mountainview Ave.
- Consider subscribing to the DEP's news service. Go to <http://www.nj.gov/dep/newsrel>

RECENT LETTERS SENT

- January 2013. Letter to NJDEP urging good vegetation management in power line rights-of-way, including the North Central Reliability Project, and revegetation with native species.
- September 2012. Letter to NJDEP urging care in delineating wetlands on Block 102.11, Lot 10.01.
- July 2012. Letter to Passaic River Coalition supporting their proposed purchase of 4 parcels along the river. Letter to Township Committee urging denial of T-Mobile request to violate a conservation easement.
- June 2012. Memo to Board of Adjustment urging protection of wetlands on Block 102.11, Lot 10.01. Memo to NJDEP urging protection of wetlands on Block 69, Lot 15.

EVENTS

- January 9, 2013, Wednesday, 8 a.m. (NOTE AM). SEAMLESS. Madison Library. Whippany River Watershed Action Committee will cover information about the river, explain the mission of the Watershed Committee, and describe many of the projects they have done and hope to do. They are active in 16 of the municipalities in southeast Morris County.
- January 11, 2013, Friday, 9:30am - 12:30pm. ANJEC Capitol Day. State House Annex, Committee Room 16, Trenton, NJ. Free for CTEC members.
- April 17, 2013, Wednesday. Recycling awards dinner rescheduled, 6:30 p.m. at the Hanover Manor, 16 Eagle Rock Ave., East Hanover. RSVP to pjones@mcmua.com by April 1.
- April 20, 2013, Saturday. 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Annual Workday at the Green Village Pond Conservation Area. Trail needs to be clipped and outlined with poles, more trash in the rear debris piles needs to be removed. We could use a nice sign at the entrance. Volunteers wanted.

MAIL RECEIVED

- Minutes of meetings of Chatham Borough and Long Hill Environmental Commissions.
- Notices and flyers.

ADJOURN 9:35 PM

Carolyn Scannelli
Minutes Secretary